

CLAIMS

We claim:

1. A method for tracking metadata related to an information object inserted into a document, the method comprising the steps of:

 compiling metadata describing an information object collected from a source document;

 storing the metadata and the corresponding information object in a memory;

 and

 inserting the metadata into a first destination document when the information object is inserted into the first destination object.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein the first destination document is a word processing document.
3. The method of claim 1, wherein the information object is computer source code.
4. The method of claim 1, wherein the metadata includes information providing attribution for the information object.
5. The method of claim 1, wherein the metadata includes information related to the source document.

6. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of inserting the metadata into a second destination document rather than the first destination document, wherein the second destination document is associated with the first destination document.

7. The method of claim 1, wherein the metadata is not viewable during at least one processing phase of the first destination document.

8. A system for tracking metadata related to an information object inserted into a document, comprising:

a computing system;

a source document;

a first destination document;

an information object collected from the source document;

a metadata object describing the information object; and

logic, executed on the computing system, for inserting the metadata object into the first destination document when the information object is inserted into the first destination object.

9. The system of claim 8, wherein the first destination document is a word processing document.

10. The method of claim 8, wherein the information object is computer source code.

11. The method of claim 8, wherein the metadata object includes information providing attribution for the information object.

12. The method of claim 8, wherein the metadata object includes information related to the source document.

13. The method of claim 8, further comprising:
a second destination document correlated to the first destination document;
and
logic for inserting the metadata into the second destination document rather than the first destination document.

14. The method of claim 8, wherein the metadata object is not viewable during at least one processing phase of the first destination document.

15. A computer program product for tracking metadata related to an information object inserted into a document, comprising:

a recording medium;
means, stored on the recording medium, for compiling metadata describing an information object collected from a source document;
means, stored on the recording medium, for storing the metadata and the corresponding information object in a memory; and

means, stored on the recording medium, for inserting the metadata into a first destination document when the information object is inserted into the first destination object.

16. The computer programming product of claim 15, wherein the first destination document is a word processing document.

17. The computer programming product of claim 15, wherein the information object is computer source code.

18. The computer programming product of claim 15, wherein the metadata includes information providing attribution for the information object.

19. The computer programming product of claim 15, wherein the metadata includes information related to the source document.

20. The computer programming product of claim 15, further comprising means, stored on the recording medium, for inserting the metadata into a second destination document rather than the first destination document, wherein the second destination document is associated with the first destination document.

21. A method for compiling and storing metadata, comprising the steps of:

compiling metadata corresponding to an information object collected from a source document, wherein the metadata is information related the information object;

inserting the information object into a first destination document; and

storing the metadata in conjunction with the first destination document, such that the metadata can be correlated with the information object.

22. The method of claim 21, wherein the metadata is information related to the source of the information object.

23. The method of claim 21, wherein the metadata is stored in the first destination document.

24. The method of claim 21, wherein the metadata is stored in a second destination document such that the second destination document can be correlated with the first destination document.

25. A method of accessing metadata and associating the metadata with an information object, comprising the steps of:

accessing a first document; and

retrieving a metadata object, stored in conjunction with the first document and associated with an information object included in the first document, wherein the metadata object includes information relating to the source of the information object.